

**Please Amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head assembly comprising:
  - a core block provided with a sliding surface which slides over a medium, the core block comprising a magnetoresistive element disposed adjacent to an insulating layer;
  - a base plate on which the core block is mounted;
  - an insulating junction substrate mounted on at least one surface of the base plate; and
  - lines connecting the magnetoresistive element to terminals disposed on the junction substrate,wherein the relationship  $C_{PWB}/C_{MR} < 1.5$  is satisfied, wherein  $C_{MR}$  is the a capacitance of the core block including the magnetoresistive element, and  $C_{PWB}$  is the a capacitance of a section including the junction substrate and the base plate.
2. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistive element is disposed between a plurality of insulating layers inside the core block.
3. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the a total of the capacitance  $C_{MR}$  and the capacitance  $C_{PWB}$  is 5 pF or less.
4. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the a total of the capacitance  $C_{MR}$  and the capacitance  $C_{PWB}$  is 1 to 5 pF.
5. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording and playback apparatus comprising:
  - a thin-film magnetic head assembly according to Claim 1; and
  - a rotary cylinder,

wherein the thin-film magnetic head assembly is mounted in a recess formed in ~~the~~ a periphery of the rotary cylinder.

6. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the core block comprises:  
a pair of core halves, the core halves being joined together; and  
a built-in layer disposed at ~~the~~ a junction between the core halves, the built-in layer comprising the magnetoresistive element, an electrode layer connected to the magnetoresistive element, and one of insulating layers ~~or~~ and shielding layers, the one of the insulating layers ~~or~~ and shielding layers sandwiching the magnetoresistive element and the electrode layer,

wherein the electrode layer is connected to pads disposed outside the built-in layer, and the lines connected to the terminals of the junction substrate are connected to the pads,

wherein a capacitance is produced by the magnetoresistive element disposed between the one of the insulating layers ~~or~~ and shielding layers in the core block.